



Luke 2: 25 - 32 tells us of the story of Simeon, a righteous and devout man, who was told by the Holy Spirit he would not die until he saw Israel's Messiah. When Jesus was brought by his parents to the temple to be circumcised, at eight days, they encountered Simeon. Simon took Jesus into his arms to praise God for allowing him to hold the Messiah, who had finally come. Simon, guided by the Holy Spirit, knew that what the Israelites hoped and believed, the Messiah, the great hope for the nation of Israel had been born.

In the Regions, we too can look, in these days of Advent, of a people who **believe and hope** that through the Holy Spirit we too can see Salvation and become a light of revelation to all people. As Disciples of Christ, we can **Believe Again** that God is actively promising us **a deeper hope** for our congregations and regions working together to be in covenant with each other. Many churches, differing churches, all in one region **Believing Again; Hoping Again** together that the God who ushered in a Savior as a baby in a complex world can once again save God's people.

We covenant together, as a region to work together to be the kind of change that needs to happen for Jesus to again become the Savior of the world through the works and ministries of the Regional Churches. Together we:

- Provide camps, conferences and retreats where children and youth find hope and God's love in a community of faith that embraces all.
- Revitalize existing congregations and plan for new congregations.
- Call, commission and ordain new pastors
- Support and equip pastors and lay leaders for their ministries.
- Provide resources and support to congregations and pastors.
- Assist congregations and leaders to claim their unique mission and ministry.
- Provide pastoral care for clergy and congregations
- Make visible the care of all God's family through ministries of reconciliation and anti-racism.
- Connect congregations to give witness to ministries of justice, hope and compassion.

The Christmas Special Day Offering supports all of these and many other ministries of our Region. **Your generous gifts make the difference** in our covenantal, shared ministries in the Region, giving us a deeper hope that we can **Believe Again** that God is active in the world through the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).